GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:281
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE RAILWAYS
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the preparedness of the Railways to quickly access the sites with rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with non-governmental organisations within the initial hours of the accident;

(b) whether the Railways' disaster management plan presently lacks cohesiveness and is ill- prepared to handle disasters;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto alongwith the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways have taken a decision to utilise the services of foreign companies with a view to improving the emergency services of the Indian Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 281 BY SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.12.2008 REGARDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE RAILWAYS.

(a): Railways are fully prepared to quickly access the sites for conducting rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with other governmental and non-governmental organisations within the initial hours of the accident. On receiving the information of the accident, not only the railways resources like Accident Relief Medical vans, Accident Relief Trains, but resources from other government and non-government organisations are also requisitioned as per the need. For this purpose, contact details of such non-railway resources are kept at the railway stations and Railway hospitals/Primary health centres as well as in the divisional and headquarter control rooms of the zonal Railways.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. Disaster Management Plans at Divisional and Zonal levels have been prepared by zonal railways based on railway specific information and non-railway information available at that time. These plans are subjected to periodical review and updating depending on new developments, which is a continuous ongoing process.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.